

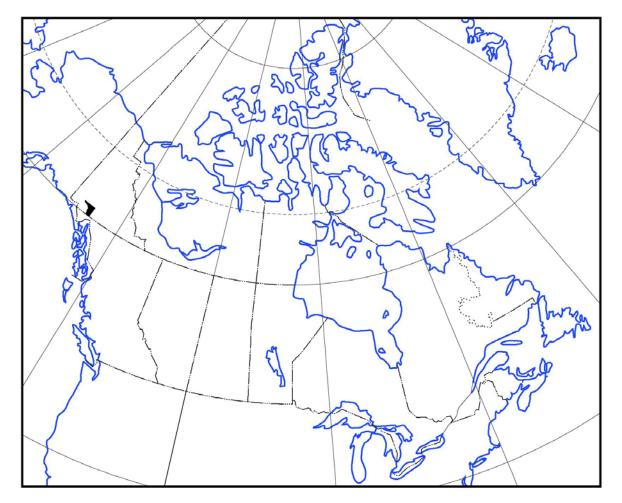


## **GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA OPEN FILE 2859**

### EXPLORATION AND GEOLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION (EGSD), YUKON INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA OPEN FILE 2001-11(D)

# REGIONAL STREAM SEDIMENT AND WATER GEOCHEMICAL RECONNAISSANCE DATA SOUTHWESTERN YUKON

(PARTS OF NTS 115A AND 115B)



Friske, P.W.B., Day, S.J.A., McCurdy, M.W. (2001); Regional Stream Sediment and Water Geochemical Reconnaissance Data, Southwestern Yukon (parts of NTS 115A and 115B); Geological Survey of Canada Open File 2859/Exploration and Geological Services Division Open File 2001-11(D)







Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada



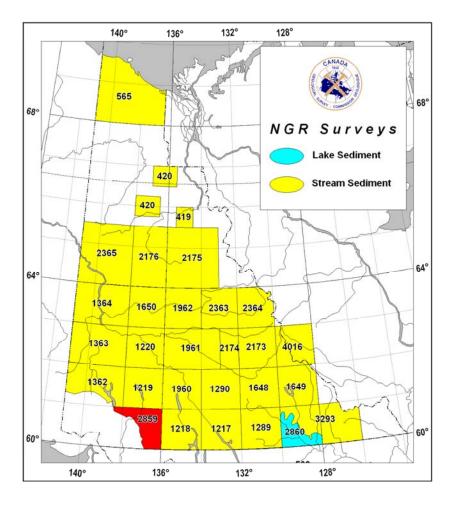


Fig. A. Areas of Yukon covered by geochemical surveys, showing current GSC open file numbers

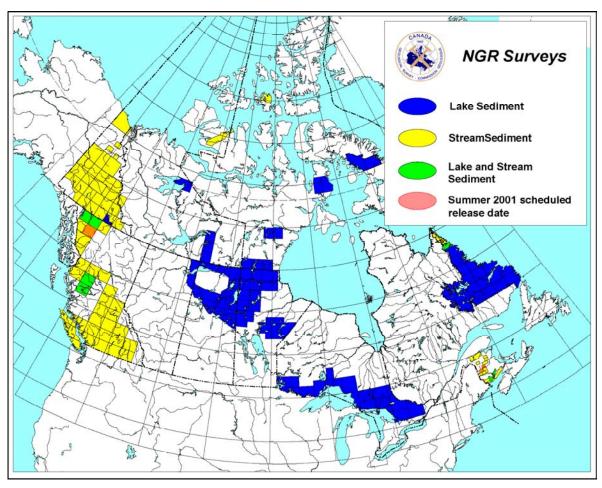


Fig. B. Drainage surveys to National Geochemical Reconnaissance (NGR) standards.

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## GSC OPEN FILE 2859 EGSD OPEN FILE 2001-11(D)

### REGIONAL STREAM SEDIMENT AND WATER DATA, YUKON Parts of NTS 115A and 115B

#### INTRODUCTION

GSC Open File 2859/EGSD 2001-11(D) presents analytical and statistical data for 36 elements in sediments from 623 stream sites in Yukon. Loss-on-ignition in sediments and uranium, fluoride and pH values in waters from these sites are included. This report contains geochemical data from an area in the southwestern part of the territory sampled in 1993 under the Canada - Yukon Mineral Resource Development Cooperation Agreement (1990-1995).

The original reconnaissance surveys were managed by the Geological Survey of Canada in conjunction with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Whitehorse, Yukon. The digital releases were financed under the Yukon Geology Program which includes the Economic Development Branch of Yukon Government and Exploration and Geological Services Division (EGSD) of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Analytical results and field observations are used to build a national geochemical data base for resource assessment, mineral exploration, geological mapping and environmental studies. Sample collection, preparation procedures and analytical methods are strictly specified and carefully monitored to ensure consistent and reliable results regardless of the area, the year or the analytical laboratory (Friske and Hornbrook, 1991).

National Geochemical Reconnaissance surveys have been carried out by the GSC in Yukon since 1976. A total of 28 open files have been published or are in publication, covering approximately 331 930 km<sup>2</sup>. Areas surveyed, with associated open file numbers, are shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 2 shows cross-Canada coverage. Data from all open files are available on 3.5 or 5.25 inch diskettes and in the original published form.

#### CREDITS

P.W.B. Friske directed the survey, coordinating the activities of contract and Geological Survey of Canada staff.

Contracts were let to the following companies for sample collection, preparation, and analysis, and were managed by Geological Survey of Canada staff as follows:

Collection:	Northway Map Technology Limited Don Mills, Ontario <i>P.W.B. Friske (GSC)</i>
Preparation:	Bondar-Clegg & Company Ottawa, Ontario <i>J.J. Lynch (GSC)</i>
Analysis:	CanTech Laboratories, Inc. Calgary, Alberta

Analysis: (cont') Becquerel Laboratories, Ltd. Mississauga, Ontario Bondar-Clegg & Company, Ltd. Gloucester, Ontario J.J. Lynch (GSC)

M. McCurdy edited Open Files and coordinated production.

H. Gross provided software support for map production and data listings.

C.C. Durham, S.J. Day, R.G. Balma, and S. Carberry provided technical assistance.

Digital cartography and final digital compilation by Paul Stacey, Map - IT, Ottawa, ON.

# DESCRIPTION OF SURVEY AND SAMPLE MANAGEMENT

Sediments and waters were collected during the summer of 1992. Sample sites were distributed over the 7 825  $\text{km}^2$  survey area at an average of one sample per 12.6  $\text{km}^2$ .

Samples were arranged in groups (blocks) of twenty. Each group of twenty contained site duplicate samples, that is, two samples from a single site: the group also contained an analytical duplicate sample pair (a single site sample split and placed in two non-adjacent sample vials). Finally, each group included a control reference sample. The functions of these samples are described in the section titled, **Presentation and Interpretation of Gold Data**. Field observations were recorded on standard forms used by the Geological Survey of Canada (Garrett, 1974).

Site positions were marked on 1:50 000 scale NTS maps in the field and later digitized at the Geological Survey in Ottawa to obtain Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinates. Digital topographic base maps were derived from National Topographic Data Base (NTDB) 1:250 000 scale data compiled by Geomatics Canada, modified by National Geochemical Reconnaissance. The dominant rock types in the stream catchment basins were identified on appropriate geological maps used as the bedrock geological base on NGR maps.

In Ottawa, field-dried samples were air-dried and sieved through a minus 80 mesh (177 micron) screen before milling in ceramic-lined puck mills. At this time, control reference and blind duplicate samples were inserted into each block of twenty sediment samples. For the water samples, only control reference samples were inserted into the block. There were no blind duplicate water samples.

Analytical data from labs were monitored for reliability with standard methods used by the Applied Geochemistry Subdivision at the Geological Survey of Canada.

#### ANALYTICAL PROCEDURES

#### Instrumental Neutron Activation Analysis (INAA)

Weighed and encapsulated samples are packaged for irradiation along with internal standards and international reference materials. Samples and standards are irradiated together with neutron flux monitors in a twomegawatt pool type reactor. After a seven day decay period, samples are measured on a high resolution germanium detector. Computer control is achieved with a Microvax II computer. Typical counting times are 500 seconds. Elements determined by INAA include: Ag, As, Au, Ba, Br, Cd, Ce, Co, Cr, Cs, Eu, Fe, Hf, Ir, La, Lu, Mo, Na, Ni, Rb, Sb, Sc, Se, Sm, Sn, Ta, Tb, Te, Th, U, W, Yb, Zn and Zr. The sample weights are also reported. Data for Ag, Cd, Ir, Mo, Ni, Se, Sn, Te, Zn and Zr are not published because of inadequate detection limits and/or precision.

# Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy (AAS) and Other Analyses

For the determination of Zn, Cu, Pb, Ni, Co, Ag, Mn, Fe and Cd, a 1 gram sample is reacted with 3 mL concentrated HNO<sub>3</sub> in a test tube overnight at room temperature. After digestion, the test tube is immersed in a hot water bath at room temperature and brought up to 90° C and held at this temperature for 30 minutes with periodic shaking. One ml of concentrated HCl is added and heating continues for another 90 minutes. The sample solution is then diluted to 20 ml with metal-free water and mixed. Zn, Cu, Pb, Ni, Co, Ag, Mn, Fe and Cd are determined by atomic absorption spectroscopy using an air-acetylene flame. Background corrections are made for Pb, Ni, Co, Ag and Cd.

Molybdenum and vanadium are determined by atomic absorption spectroscopy using a nitrous oxide acetylene flame. A 0.5 g sample is reacted with 1.5 mL concentrated HNO<sub>3</sub> in a test tube overnight at room temperature. After digestion, the test tube is immersed in a hot water bath at room temperature and brought up to 90 degrees C and held at this temperature for 30 minutes with periodic shaking. At this point, 0.5 ml concentrated HCl is added and the digestion continued at 90° C for an additional 90 minutes. After cooling, 8 ml of 1250 ppm Al solution are added and the sample solution diluted to 10 ml before aspiration.

Mercury is determined by the Hatch and Ott procedure with some modifications. The method is described by Jonasson et al. (1973). A 0.5 gram sample is reacted with 20 ml concentrated HNO3 and 1 ml concentrated HCl in a test tube for 10 minutes at room temperature prior to two hours of digestion with mixing at 90° C in a hot water bath. After digestion, the sample solutions are cooled and diluted to 100 ml with metal-free water. The Hg present is reduced to the elemental state by the addition of 10 ml 10% w/v SnSO<sub>4</sub> in M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The Hg vapour is then flushed by a stream of air into an absorption cell mounted light path of an atomic absorption in the spectrophotometer. Absorption measurements are made at 253.7 nm.

Loss-on-ignition is determined using a 500 mg sample. The sample, weighed into a 30 ml beaker, is placed in a cold muffle furnace and brought up to 500° C over a period of two to three hours. The sample is held at this temperature for four hours, then allowed to cool to room temperature for weighing. Fluorine is determined as described by Ficklin (1970). A 250 mg sample is sintered with 1 gram of a flux consisting of two parts by weight sodium carbonate and one part by weight potassium nitrate. The residue is then leached with water. The sodium carbonate is neutralized with 10 ml 10% (w/v) citric acid and the resulting solution is diluted to 100 ml with water. The pH of the solution should range from 5.5 to 6.5. The fluoride content of the test solution is measured using a fluoride ion electrode. Standard solutions contain sodium carbonate and citric acid in the same quantities as the sample solution.

Tin in stream sediments is determined by heating a 200 mg sample with  $NH_4I$ : the sublimed  $SnI_4$  is dissolved in acid and the tin determined by atomic absorption spectrometry after solvent extraction of the tin into methyl isobutyl ketone containing trioctylphosphine oxide (TOPO). The method is described by E.P. Welsch and T.T. Chao (1976).

#### Water Analyses

Fluoride in water samples is determined using a fluoride electrode. Prior to measurement, an aliquot of the sample is mixed with an equal volume of TISAB II buffer solution (total ionic strength adjustment buffer). The TISAB II buffer solution is prepared as follows: to 50 ml metal-free water add 57 ml glacial acetic acid, 58 g NaCl and 4 g CDTA (cyclohexylene dinitrilo tetraacetic acid). Stir to dissolve and cool to room temperature. Using a pH meter, adjust the pH between 5.0 and 5.5 by slowly adding 5 M NaOH solution. Cool and dilute to one litre in a volumetric flask. Detection limit = 20 ppb.

Hydrogen ion activity (pH) is measured with a combination glass-calomel electrode and a pH meter.

Uranium in waters is determined by a laser-induced fluorometric method using a Scintrex UA-3 uranium analyzer. A complexing agent, known commercially as Fluran and composed of sodium pyrophosphate and sodium monophosphate (Hall, 1979) is added to produce the uranyl pyrophosphate species which fluoresces when exposed to the laser. Since organic matter in the sample can cause unpredictable behaviour, a standard addition method is used. Further, the reaction of uranium with Fluran can be delayed or sluggish; for this reason an arbitrary 24 hour time delay between the addition of the Fluran and the actual reading is incorporated into this method. In practice, 500 µL of Fluran solution are added to a 5 ml sample and allowed to stand for 24 hours. At the end of this period fluorescence readings are made with the addition of 0.0, 0.2 and 0.4 ppb U. For high samples the additions are 0.0, 2.0 and 4.0 (20 µL aliquot of either 55 or 550 ppb U are used). All readings are taken against a sample blank.

A summary of analytical methods and detection limits is provided in Table 1.

ELEMENT		DETECTION LEVEL	METHOD
SEDIM	ENTS:		
Ag	Silver	0.2 ppm	AAS
As	Arsenic	0.5 ppm	INAA
Au	Gold	2 ppb	INAA
AuWt	Sample Weight	0.01 g	-
Ва	Barium	50 ppm	INAA
Br	Bromine	0.5 ppm	INAA
Cd	Cadmium	0.2 ppm	AAS
Ce	Cerium	5 ppm	INAA
Со	Cobalt	2 ppm	AAS
Со	Cobalt	5 ppm	INAA
Cr	Chromium	20 ppm	INAA
Cs	Cesium	0.5 ppm	INAA
Cu	Copper	2 ppm	AAS
Eu	Europium	1 ppm	INAA
F	Fluorine	40 ppm	ISE
Fe	Iron	0.02 pct	AAS
Fe	Iron	0.2 pct	INAA
Hf	Hafnium	1 ppm	INAA
Hg	Mercury	5 ppb	CV-AAS
La	Lanthanum	2 ppm	INAA
LOI	Loss-on-ignition	1.0 pct	GRAV
Lu	Lutetium	0.2 ppm	INAA
Mn	Manganese	5 ppm	AAS
Мо	Molybdenum	2 ppm	AAS
Na	Sodium	0.02 pct	INAA
Ni	Nickel	2 ppm	AAS
Pb	Lead	2 ppm	AAS
Rb	Rubidium	5 ppm	INAA
Sb	Antimony	0.1 ppm	INAA
Sc	Scandium	0.2 ppm	INAA
Sm	Samarium	0.1 ppm	INAA
Sn	Tin	1 ppm	FUS
Та	Tantalum	0.5 ppm	INAA
Tb	Terbium	0.5 ppm	INAA
Th	Thorium	0.2 ppm	INAA
U	Uranium	0.2 ppm	INAA
V	Vanadium	5 ppm	AAS
W	Tungsten	1 ppm	INAA
Yb	Ytterbium	2 ppm	INAA
Zn	Zinc	2 ppm	AAS
	WATERS:		
F-W	Fluoride	20 ppb	ISE
pН	Hydrogen ion activity		GCM
U-W	Uranium	0.05 ppb	LIF

### $\textbf{TABLE 1.} \ \textbf{Summary of Analytical Data and Methods}$

AAS CV-AAS	<ul> <li>atomic absorption spectrometry</li> <li>cold vapour (flameless) atomic absorption spectrometry</li> </ul>
GCM	<ul> <li>glass Calomel electrode and pH meter</li> </ul>
GRAV	- gravimetry
INAA	<ul> <li>Instrumental Neutron Activation Analysis</li> </ul>
ISE	- ion selective electrode
LIF	- laser-induced fluorescence
FUS	- NH4I fusion

#### COMPARISON OF DATA PRODUCED BY TWO METHODS

The data listed in II-1 to II-3 allows users to make a comparison of data generated by two different analytical methods for a couple of elements. Before attempting such a comparison some caution should be exercised. The 'wet chemistry' data for Co and Fe were obtained by AAS using a partial extraction (HNO<sub>3</sub> and HCl). The data for these elements obtained by INAA produces 'total' data. Hence, the 'wet chemistry' data will likely be somewhat lower than the INAA data.

# PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION OF GOLD DATA

The following discussion reviews the format used to present the gold geochemical data and outlines some important points to consider when interpreting these data. This discussion is included in recognition of the special geochemical behaviour and mode of occurrence of gold in nature and the resultant difficulties in obtaining and analyzing samples which reflect the actual concentration level at a given site.

The correct interpretation of geochemical gold data from regional stream sediment or lake sediment surveys requires an appreciation of the unique chemical and physical characteristics of gold and its mobility in the surficial environment. Key properties of gold that distinguish its geochemical behaviour from most other elements (Harris, 1982) include :

- Gold occurs most commonly in the native form which is chemically and physically resistant. A significant proportion of the metal is dispersed in a micron-sized particulate form, and the high specific gravity of gold results in a heterogeneous distribution, especially in stream sediment and clastic-rich (low LOI) lake sediment environments. Gold distribution appears to be more homogeneous in organic-rich fluviatile and lake sediments.
- 2) Gold typically occurs at low concentrations in the ppb range. Whereas gold concentrations of only a few ppm may represent economic deposits, background levels in stream and centre-lake sediments seldom exceed 10 ppb, and commonly are near the detection limit of 2 ppb.

These factors result in a particle sparsity effect wherein very low concentrations of gold are heterogeneously enriched or depleted in the surficial environment. Hence, a major problem facing the geochemist is to obtain a In general, areas where representative sample. concentrations of gold in sediments are low, and/or grain sizes of the gold present relatively high require proportionally larger samples to reduce the uncertainty between subsample analytical values and actual values. Conversely, as actual gold concentrations increase or grain size decreases, the number of gold particles to be shared in random subsamples increases and variability of results decreases (Clifton et al., 1969; Harris, 1982). The limited amount of material collected during the rapid, reconnaissance-style regional surveys and the need to analyze for a broad spectrum of elements, precludes the use of a significantly large sample weight for the gold Therefore, to obtain representative samples, analyses. grain size is reduced by sieving and ball milling of the

dried sediments.

The following control methods are currently employed to evaluate and monitor the sampling and analytical variability which are inherent in the determination of gold in geochemical media:

- (1) For each block of 20 samples:
  - random insertion of a standard reference sample to control analytical accuracy and long-term precision;
  - (b) collection of a field duplicate (two samples from one site) to measure sampling and analytical variance;
  - (c) analysis of a second subsample (blind duplicate) from one sample to measure and control short-term precision or analytical variance.
- (2) For both stream and lake sediments, routine repeat analyses on a second subsample are performed for all samples having values that are statistically above approximately the 90th percentile of the total data set. However, for this open file, repeat analyses for gold are not present because most of the sample material was used during the initial analysis.
- (3) For lake sediments only, a routine repeat analysis on a second subsample is performed on those samples with LOI values below 10%, indicating a large clastic component. Ongoing studies suggest that the gold distribution in these samples is more likely to be variable than in samples with a higher LOI content.

The presentation of gold data, statistical treatment and the value map format are different than for other elements. Gold data listed in the open file may include initial analytical results, values determined from repeat analyses, together with sample weights and corresponding detection limits for all analyzed samples. The gold, statistical parameters and regional symbol-trend plots are determined using only the first analytical value. Gold values less than the detection limit are set to half that limit. Sample weights used can be found in the text.

In summary, geochemical follow-up investigations for gold should be based on a careful consideration of all geological and geochemical information, and especially a careful appraisal of gold geochemical data and its variability. In some instances, prospective follow-up areas may be indirectly identified by pathfinder element associations in favourable geology, although an analogous gold response due to natural variability may be lacking. Once an anomalous area has been identified, field investigations should by designed to include detailed geochemical follow-up surveys and collection of large representative samples. Subsequent repeat subsample analyses will increase the reliability of results and permit a better understanding of natural variability which can then by used to improve sampling methods and interpretation.

#### FIELD DATA LEGEND

Table 2 describes the field and map information appearing on the following pages preceding the analytical data for each sample site.

#### REFERENCES

- Clifton, H.E., Hunter, R.E., Swanson, F.J. and Phillips, R.L. (1969) Sample size and meaningful gold analysis; U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 625-C.
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- Friske, P.W.B.; McCurdy, M.W.; Day, S.J.; Gross, H.; Lynch, J.J.; Balma, R.G. and Durham, C.C. (1994) National Geochemical Reconnaissance stream sediment and water geochemical data, southwestern Yukon; Geological Survey of Canada, Open File 2859, 110 pages
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- Hall, G.E.M. (1979) A study of the stability of uranium in waters collected from various geological environments in Canada; *in* Current Research, Part A, Geol. Surv. Can. Paper 79-1A, pp. 361-365.
- Harris, J.F. (1982) Sampling and analytical requirements for effective use of geochemistry in exploration for gold; *in* Levinson, A.A., Editor, Precious Metals in the Northern Cordillera, proceedings of a symposium sponsored by the Association of Exploration Geochemists and the Cordilleran Section of the Geological Association of Canada, pp. 53-67.
- Jonasson, I.R., Lynch, J.J. and Trip, L.J. (1973) Field and laboratory methods used by the Geological Survey of Canada in geochemical surveys; No. 12, Mercury in Ores, Rocks, Soils, Sediments and Water, Geol. Surv. Can. Paper 73-21.
- Welsch, E.P. and Chao, T.T. (1976) Determination of trace amounts of tin in geological materials by atomic absorption spectrometry; Anal. Chim. Acta., Vol. 82, pp. 337-342.

#### TABLE 2. Field Observations Legend

FIELD RECORD	DEFINITION	TEXT CODE
NTS MAP SHEET	National Topographic System (NTS); lettered quadrangle (1:250 000 or 1:50 000 scale)	115A or 115B
SAMPLE NUMBER	Remainder of sample number: Year of collection Field crew Sample sequence number	
REP STAT	Replicate status; relationship of the sample to others within the survey: Routine sample site First of a site duplicate pair Second of a site duplicate pair	1
LATITUDE	Sample location measured in Degrees (NAD83)	
LONGITUDE	Sample location measured in Degrees (NAD83)	
UTM	Universal Transverse Mercator UTM co-ordinate system; digitized sample location co-ordinates	
ZN	Zone (7 to 22)	7 or 8
EASTING	UTM Easting in metres (NAD83)	
NORTHING	UTM Northing in metres (NAD83)	
SAMPLE TYPE	Sample material collected: Stream bed sediment only Simultaneous stream sediment and water	
STREAM WIDTH	Stream width in metres	
STREAM DEPTH	Stream depth in metres	
SAMPLE CONT.	Contamination, human or natural: None Possible Probable Mining activity Agricultural Burned areas	Mining activity Agriculture
BANK TYPE	Bank type; the general nature of the bank material adjacent to the sample site: Alluvial Colluvial (bare rock, residual or mountain soils) Glacial till Glacial outwash sediments Bare rock Talus scree Organic predominant (debris, peat, muskeg, swamp)	Alluvial Colluvial Till Glacial outwash Bare rock Talus, Scree Organics
WATER COLOUR	Water colour; the general colour and suspended load of the sampled water: Clear Brown transparent White cloudy Brown cloudy	Clear Brown, transparent White, cloudy Brown, cloudy
STREAM FLOW	Water flow rate: Stagnant Slow Moderate Fast Torrential	Stagnant Slow Moderate Fast Torrential

FIELD RECORD	DEFINITION	TEXT CODE
SEDIMENT COLOUR	Predominant sediment colour: Red-brown. White-buff. Black. Yellow. Green Grey, blue grey Pink. Buff to brown Brown	Red, Brown White, Buff Black Yellow Green Grey, Blue grey Pink Buff to brown Brown
SED. COMP.	Sediment composition; description of the bulk mechanical composition of the collected sample on a scale of 1 to 3, the total of the column must add up to 3 or 4 or 5:         Size fractions are divided as follows:         Column 1 >0.125 mm (sand)         Column 2 <0.125 mm (fines - organic silt, clay)	
BOTTOM PRECIP.	Precipitate or stain; the presence of any coatings on pebbles, boulders or stream bottoms: None Red-brown White or buff Black Yellow Green Green Pink Buff to Brown	,
BANK PRECIP.	Distinctive precipitate, stains or weathering on rocks in immediate area of catchment basin or stream bank: None Red, brown (eg. Fe) White, buff (eg. CO3, Zn) Black (eg. Fe, Mn, sulphides) Yellow (e.g. Pb, U, Fe, Mo, REE) Green (Cu, Ni, U, Mo, As, Fe) Bluish (Zn, P) Pink (Co, As)	None Red, brown White, buff Black Yellow Green Blue Pink
STREAM PHYSIOGRAPHY	General physiography of the drainage basin: Plain Muskeg, swampland Peneplain, plateau Hilly, undulating Mountainous, mature Mountainous, youthful (precipitous)	Plain Lowlands, Swamp Peneplain, Plateau Hilly, undulating Mountainous, mature Mountainous, youthful

FIELD RECORD	DEFINITION	TEXT CODE
STREAM DRAINAGE PATTERN	Drainage pattern: Poorly defined, haphazard Dendritic Herringbone Rectangular Trellis Discontinuous shield type (chains of lakes) Basinal Others	Poorly defined Dendritic Herringbone Rectangular Trellis Discontinuous Basinal Other
STREAM TYPE	Stream type: Undefined Permanent, continuous Intermittent, seasonal Re-emergent, discontinuous	Undefine Permanent Intermit Re-emerg
STREAM CLASS	Classification based on proximity to source: Undefined Primary Secondary Tertiary Quaternary	Undefined Primary Secondary Tertiary Quaternary
WATER SOURCE	Source of water: Unknown Groundwater Snow melt or spring run-off Recent precipitation Ice-cap or glacier meltwater	- Groundwater Spring melt Recent precipitation Glacier meltwater
Miscellaneous	Missing data in any field no sample material for analysis parts per million parts per billion percent weight (of sample) gram	* ns ppm ppb pct Wt gm

